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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/819,686	03/29/2001	Hiroshi Hanzawa	24582	3152

7590 06/07/2004

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EXAMINER

BAYAT, BRADLEY B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/819,686

Applicant(s)

HANZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Bradley Bayat

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

The applicant has amended claims 1-7, 13, 15, 18, and 20 in the amendment filed on 12 March 2004. Thus, claims 1-22 are again presented for examination on the merits.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-11, 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Downs et al. (hereinafter Downs), U.S. Patent 6,226,618 B1.

As per the following claims, Downs discloses:

1. An accounting printing system for printing literary work information in a digital form, wherein said literary work information includes management information for controlling a print processing of said literary work information, the system further comprising: a user information storing section for storing information on a user who utilizes said printing apparatus; and an authentication processing section for executing authentication of a user who wants the print

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processing of said literary work information based on said information on said user (column 11, lines 29-54; figure 6 and associated text).

2. The accounting printing system according to claim 1, wherein a number of pages of literary work information to be printed has an upper and a lower limit (columns 21-22).

3. An accounting printing method comprising the steps of printing literary work information in a digital form, wherein said literary work information includes management information for controlling a print processing of said literary work information, and said literary work information is printed under print conditions specified in said management information; storing information on a user who utilizes said printing method in an information storing section; and executing authentication of a user who wants the print processing of said literary work information based on said information on said user (columns 22-24).

4. The accounting printing method according to claim 3, further comprising the step providing upper and lower limit numbers of pages to be printed of said literary work information (columns 19-22).

5. An accounting printing system comprising: an information distributing apparatus for distributing literary work information in a digital form and management information for controlling a print processing of said literary work information; a printing apparatus which is connected to said information distributing apparatus through an electronic network, receives

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and stores said literary work information and said management information, and prints said literary work information under print conditions specified in said management information; a user information storing section for storing information on a user who utilizes said printing apparatus; and an authentication processing section for executing authentication of a user who wants the print processing of said literary work information based on said information on said user (columns 23-26).

6. The accounting printing system according to claim 5, wherein said printing apparatus includes: a controlling section for controlling the print processing of said literary work information by an authenticated user based on said information on said user and said management information; and a print processing section for printing said literary work information in accordance with a command from said controlling section (columns 58-60).

7. The accounting printing system according to claim 5, wherein a number of pages of literary work information to be printed has an upper limit and a lower limit (columns 59, 61).

8. The accounting printing system according to claim 6, wherein said printing apparatus further includes an aggregating section for aggregating and outputting a printing fee of said literary work information (columns 47-48).

9. The accounting printing system according to claim 8, wherein said aggregating section periodically outputs a aggregation result of the printing fee of said literary work information to

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said information distributing apparatus and, when the amount of the aggregation result reaches more than a predetermined amount, said controlling section controls said print processing section not to execute the print processing of said literary work information (figure 16 and associated text; columns 47-48).

10. The accounting printing system according to claim 6, wherein said printing apparatus periodically communicates with said information distributing apparatus through the electronic network and, if there is no communication between said printing apparatus and said information distributing apparatus for a predetermined period of time, said controlling section controls said print processing section not to execute the print processing of said literary work information (columns 25-26).

11. The accounting printing system according to claim 6, wherein said printing apparatus further includes an accounting information list generating section for generating and outputting a list of said literary work information (column 8).

Claims 13-22 are directed to a method of the above claimed system and are rejected as above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Downs et al. (hereinafter Downs), U.S. Patent 6,226,618 B1.

As per claim 12, Downs discloses an accounting printing system for printing literary work information in a digital form, wherein said literary work information includes management information for controlling a print processing of said literary work information, and said literary work information is printed based under print conditions specified in said management information (column 11, lines 29-54; figure 6 and associated text). Downs fails to explicitly teach the use of stencil printing apparatus. Official notice is taken that a stencil printing apparatus is an old and well-known type of commercial printing device used in the printing industry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to implement Downs' system for controlling and distribution of digital data wherein a stencil printing apparatus is used for custom precise and electronic commercial printing purposes.

Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

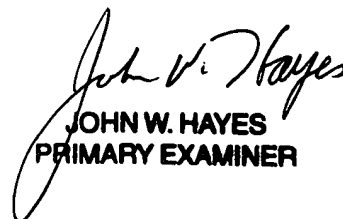
THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley Bayat whose telephone number is 703-305-8548. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday during normal business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER